Keeping in touch

News and notes from
the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.
5300 Santa Monica Boulevard, Suite 304, Los Angeles, CA 90029, (213) 464-5100.

MAY, 1990

MARCH, 1990
TOP 20 TITHES

1.	MCC Dallas	Dallas, TX	$2,608.61
2.	MCC San Diego	San Diego, CA	2,501.63
3.	MCC Toronto	Ontario, CAN	1,986.55
4.	MCC Washington DC	Washington, DC	1,722.03
5.	MCC San Francisco	San Francisco, CA	1,650.00
6.	MCC in the Valley	N Hollywood, CA	1,610.05
7.	MCC of the Resurrection	Houston, TX	1,506.77
8.	MCC Long Beach	Long Beach, CA	1,449.96
9.	MCC of the Rockies	Denver, CO	992.32
10.	Joy MCC	Orlando, FL	961.48
11.	First MCC of Kansas	Wichita, KS	902.86
12.	King of Peace MCC	St Petersburg, FL	853.64
13.	Church of the Trinity MCC	Sarasota, FL	811.23
14.	River City MCC	Sacramento, CA	799.43
15.	All Saints MCC	Atlanta, GA	691.49
16.	MCC Tampa	Tampa, FL	687.76
17.	Agape MCC	Ft Worth, TX	687.55
18.	MCC Detroit	Detroit, MI	640.66
19.	St. Luke's MCC	Jacksonville, FL	580.27
20.	MCC Albuquerque	Albuquerque, NM	544.66

MARCH, 1990
TOP 20 PER CAPITA

1.	Open Arms MCC	Rochester, NY	54.34
2.	New Covenant MCC	Anaheim, CA	50.98
3.	MCC Detroit	Detroit, MI	38.83
4.	Christos MCC	Toronto, Ontario, CAN	33.02
5.	MCC at Boise	Boise, ID	28.02
6.	New Life MCC	Berkeley, CA	26.63
7.	MCC in the Country	Vista, CA	25.48
8.	MCC Rockville	Rockville, MD	24.49
9.	MCC Calgary	Alberta, CAN	23.24
10.	MCC of the Desert	Cathedral City, CA	23.06
11.	All Saints MCC	Atlanta, GA	22.90
12.	Faith Eternal MCC	Springfield, IL	22.47
13.	Christ the Redeemer MCC	Evanston, IL	22.45
14.	Dawn of Faith MCC	Pearland, TX	21.92
15.	Diablo Valley MCC	Concord, CA	20.78
16.	Golden Gate MCC	San Francisco, CA	19.64
17.	MCC San Diego	San Diego, CA	19.33
18.	Calvary MCC	Redwood City, CA	18.89
19.	Gentle Shepherd MCC	Scottsdale, AZ	18.67
20.	MCC of Northern Virginia	Oakton, VA	18.63

PRAISES

Rev. Jeri Ann Harvey has become a grandmother! On April 5th, Evan Nathaniel was born to Jeri Ann's son and daughter-in-law, Mark Harvey and Susan Grove. He is a healthy 7 pounds, 14 ounces. Congratulations, Grandma!

MCC of Dallas, TX and their Pastor Rev. Michael Piazza have agreed on a ten (10) year pastoral contract! This is a "First" in UFMCC! Our best wishes and support, as they commit together in long-term ministry.

MCC of Austin, TX celebrates the installation of their new Pastor Rev. Wendy Foxworth with special activities the weekend of June 8-10, with the Installation service on Saturday evening June 9. Congratulations and best wishes!

Rev. Frankye White reports that St. Luke's MCC, Jacksonville, FL, raised over $13,000 in their Mountain Mover Campaign to eliminate the church debt - Hallelujah! They also will be celebrating their 16th Anniversary on May 4-6 with Rev. Robert Pierce as guest preacher, and Lynn Lavner in Concert as a "Raise the Roof" Campaign (to literally replace the roof). Keep up the good work!

Rev. Paul M. Turner, pastor of Good Samaritan Parish MCC, Toledo, OH, has been asked to participate in the "sermonette" meditations programs aired at the close of broadcast on TV channels in Toledo. He will film seven spots to air at different times on three stations. Our support and best wishes are with you.

PRAYERS

Prayers are requested for Rev. Ed Sherriff, Northwest District Coordinator who was in an unusual accident in early April. While trying to start his car it began rolling downhill and he scraped his legs and feet very badly trying to physically stop it. Our prayers are with you Ed as you recover.

Prayers are requested for Rev. Ron Bergeron, Ottawa, Canada, who has been in the hospital. Ron is home now, but is still very ill and needs our prayers of support and strength. Get well soon, Ron, we love you!

Prayers are requested for Dr. Gary McClelland, Member of Samaritan Board of Trustees, who has been in the hospital. Our prayers of love and support are with you Gary, get well soon.

POSTHUMOUS ORDINATION

At the March Meeting of the Clergy Credentials and Concerns Committee the following motion was passed unanimously:

> "MOVED that posthumous Ordination be granted to Rev. John Radford Feagan for his lifelong commitment to the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches and, particularly, for his ministry at New Life MCC, Berkeley, California."

UFMCC prays that John's ministry will continue to be a source of inspiration to all those he ministered to.

MCC SOUTHAMPTON JOINS COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Rev. Ian Westby, has been advised in a letter that MCC of Southampton, England has been accepted as a member of the Southampton Council of Churches.

The letter, written by Ann Lewin, Secretary of the Council, says "At the last executive committee meeting people were delighted to hear that you want to be a part of the Council of Churches. We offer you all a warm welcome, and look forward to getting to know the members of MCC better."

Membership of the Council will give Southampton MCC a firm base on which to build ecumenical activities. Along with interest in the Interfaith Group, they will be able to participate in Council activities. One of their commissioning objectives was to support the Pastor as he sought to build bridges with the other churches in the area. Having achieved that objective, now is the hard part. They will need to give what support they can to any activities that the Council organizes.

Much of the activity of the Interfaith Group will be centered around the formation of house groups, which will undertake studies and discussions and visits to other faith centers, as appropriate.

POSITION AVAILABLE

ASSOCIATE PASTOR for MCC Key West: Newly licensed clergy are encouraged to apply. One year contract - renewable for 1 year only. Strength in administration, teaching and programming is preferable.

This is a fulltime position, salary commensurate with experience. Housing is provided as part of the package.

Please send your resume with references to Rev. Steven Torrence, c/o MCC Key West, 1250 Petronia Street, Key West, Florida 33040.

EX-GAY MINISTRY FOUNDERS RECANT

Michael Bussee and Gerry Cooper, the founders of Exodus International, a Church-based coalition of "Ex-gay" ministries, have denounced all such programs seeking to convert homosexuals into heterosexuals, according to articles in The Sentinel (2/2/90) and the Bay Area Reporter, (2/8/90). Bussee remarked of the programs, "I had no success with them. I counseled...hundreds of people...who tried to change their sexual orientation and none of them [were] successful. If you got them away from the Christian limelight and asked them, "Honestly now, are you saying that you are no longer homosexual and you are now heterosexually oriented?'...not one person said, "Yes, I am actually now heterosexual.'"

Busee is now a family counselor for gay and lesbian couples. He admits that his past work did "psychological damage...There may very well be out there people that I talked to who are dead now because they committed suicide because of the guilt that I inadvertently heaped on them. I feel guilty about that. I mean it was well intentioned. I was getting brainwashed by the Church; this was what I was supposed to be doing, [but] it damaged me; it damaged the people I talked to."

One man, according to the pair, suffered such severe psychological damage that he mutilated his own genitals with a razor blade in a desperate attempt to rid himself of his sexual desires. Another implusively underwent an incomplete sex-change operation because he believed his sexual desires might receive divine approval were he biologically a woman.

But at the time, "I was convinced it was working," Bussee said. "Every once in a while a crack in that conviction would occur. I'd [ask], 'How come I'm still having these feelings?' I'd see a Christian psychologist, and he'd say, 'Oh, that's just temptation. Ignore it or suppress it. You are different. You are now ex-gay. You're no longer gay. Those feelings don't mean anything.'" But those feelings didn't go away, for either of the men. In fact, even during their tenure with Exodus, some "ex-gay" counselors actively engaged in gay sex, even after a full day of "ex-gay" counseling.

Both said they experienced such inner conflict that they decided to leave the organization in 1979. Shortly before a general synod of the United Church of Christ, where the two were scheduled to appear, they decided to dramatically alter the talk they were expected to deliver. To the utter shock of the audience, they called for acceptance of lesbians and gays as they are - a stand which spelled a rapid end to their involvement in organized evangelical Christianity. Soon after, their marriage ended in divorce and they moved in together.

FUND FOR OVERCOMING RACISM PREPARES TO AWARD SCHOLARSHIPS

The Fund For Overcoming Racism was brought into existence at General Conference XIV, in St. Paul, Minnesota. At the most recent General Council Meeting, March 6-13, 1990, in Hollywood, California, the Board of Elders made the following motion:

> **"MOVED that the F.O.R. Fund is a scholarship initiative conducted under the oversight of the Board of Elders, accountable to the General Council. The Board of Trustees for the F.O.R. Fund will include five people for four year terms. Careful consideration should be given to issues of balance reflecting the diversity and geographic scope of the UFMCC. The first Board will include three people of color and two white people. ..."**

The focus this year is to provide scholarships for racial minority student clergy to attend Orientation To MCC Pastoring.

Fortunately we have enough funds to subsidize limited, partial, scholarships, to "Orientation To MCC Pastoring." If you are interested please contact Mr. George Padilla, Chair, UFMCC F.O.R. Fund, 5300 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 304, Los Angeles, CA 90029, USA.

Requests should include: Recommendations from your local Pastor and your District Coordinator. The requests must be at the UFMCC Office by the 5th of June 1990. The decision will be made by the F.O.R. Fund Board of Trustees on the 12th of June. The recipient(s) will be notified by one of the Trustees.

If you know of someone who may benefit by this program, please share this information with them.

Laity Sharing

A Publication of the UFMCC Commission on the Laity
SECOND EDITION MAY 1990
JoNee Shelton, Chair Robert Dedman, Asst Chair

The Bible as the Friend of Lesbians and Gays

The basis for religious ministries (such as "reparative therapy" and "love in action") that try to change homosexuals into hetrosexuals is the belief that homosexuality is a sin and is condemned as a sin in the Bible.

The Bible, however, does not condem homosexuality as a sin. The Bible nowhere condems or even deals with romantic love or sexual relations between loving same sex couples. There is no word for "homosexual" in biblical Hebrew or Greek. The Bible instead offers great help to gays and lesbians to follow Jesus and learn to handle their homosexuality responsibly and with love. For the past two years, Rev. Dr. Buddy Truluck has taught weekly Bible studies on the theme of "The Bible as the Friend of Lesbians and Gays" at MCC in Atlanta and Golden Gate MCC.

Recent attacks by religious terrorists against gays and lesbians have been based on six Bible verses taken out of context and misused to hurt people who need understanding and acceptance.

The story of Sodom in Genesis 19 does not deal with homosexuals. Sodom was never interpreted in terms of sexual sin by Jewish teachers until after the first century. Every Bible reference to Sodom is either to inhospitality to strangers or as a symbol of desolation and destruction. The word "know" in Genesis 19:5 simply means "know" and has no sexual meaning. This same word is used over 900 times in the Old Testiment to "know" God, the law, etc. A word for sodomy does not exist in the Bible.

The two "Abomination " verses in Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13 that called "men lying with males as with women" an abomination were directed at pagan baal fertility rituals and not at the physical affection of people of the same sex who love each other.

Paul never discussed homosexuals. Romans 1:26-27 is set in the context of condeming pagan religious practices and does not say anything about love or sex between people of the same sex who love each other. "Homosexual" in some modern translations of 1 Cor. 6:9 and 1Tim. 1:10 is the Greek word for "male bed" and is found nowhere else. It is a rare and obscure word. We do not know exactly what the word means. No ancient Greek writer who talked about homosexuality used this word. "Male bed" was not translated as "homosexual" in any Bible before 1946. The Bible never discusses same sex romantic love. Jesus never mentions it.

The bottom line is that the Bible does not say that homosexuality is a sin. The bible nowhere says that gays and lesbians can or should change their sexual orientation. Whatever motivates people to want to change there sexual orientation, there is no Bible basis for it. Using the Bible as a weapon against hurting people to teach self-hate, guilt and rejection is a sin!!

Dr. Buddy Truluck is clergy on staff at Golden Gate MCC. After receiving his Doctor of Theology from Southern Baptist Seminary in Louisville, Ky. he wrote adult Sundy School materials for the Southern Baptists and was Professor of Religion at Baptist College at Charleston, S.C.

Manuscripts for this series of seven Bible studies are available through Golden Gate MCC: 134 Church Street: San Francisco, CA 94114. The price for the entire series is $4.00 to cover cost of printing and mailing.

"Linking Faith and Daily Life"

by Mr. Elder Larry Rodriguez

After eight days of Board of Elders and General Council meetings, the last thing I wanted to do was to be away from home for yet another "church" event. As I packed my bags, and said goodbye to my spouse, I drove my car into the Friday evening rush-hour traffic and headed to the DePaul Retreat Center.

The event was a retreat, developed through Auburn Theological Seminary in New York, as part of their project "Linking Faith and Daily Life." The project seeks to link the daily lives of lay people with their Christian faith. The Rev. Karen Ziegler and Ms. Donna Roberts had both flown in from New York to assist in conducting the retreat.

As the weekend progressed, participants were encouraged to explore the many ways their Christian faith influences their daily life, at work and at play. We engaged in discussions about the conflicts that arise when actions required in our daily lives (at work or home) forces us to evaluate the "rightness" of the actions. We sang together, ate together, shared our life stories together.

One particular highlight occurred for me late Saturday evening. We were discussing what we had learned about theologizing as a result of the retreat's activities. In a rush of words, it became apparent to me that the concept of the "priesthood of all believers" is related to the concept of "the body of Christ", but they are not the same concept, and neither concept necessarily bear resemblance to the institutional church. The "priesthood of all believers" is more like "Christ in the world", and the "body of Christ" is more like the internal support system of the church. Each of us, being part of this "priesthood of all believers", can serve as teachers, preachers, prophets and evangelist in our world at work. The "priesthood of all believers" goes beyond the boundry of the institutional church to the people of the world ehich we are called to serve.

Well, what I thought would be just another "church" weekend, turned into a dynamic, enlightening time for us all. Our particular retreat was a pilot retreat for the "Linking Faith and Daily Life" project. I hope that others in UFMCC will be able to participate.

COMING EVENTS

Spring District Conference for the S.E. District will be held May 18-20, 1990 in the newly renovated Deauville Hotel on Miami Beach, FL. The theme is "Go Unto All the World". Special guest will be Rev. Sandra Robinson, newly named Dean of Samaritan College.

"We Can Do All Things Through Christ" is the Northwest District Conference theme, May 18-20, 1990 at the Beverly Garland Hotel in Sacramento, CA. Rev. Brent Hawkes will be featured in a plenary session on church growth and will be facilitating church growth workshops. Guest preachers will include the Rev. Elder Jeri Ann Harvey.

The South Central District will be celebrating their District Conference "The Rainbow of God's People" in Corpus Christi, TX. The focus of the conference will be learning to build a multi-cultural-ethnic-racial church that is the embodiment of the inclusive love of Jesus Christ. Special guests will be Rev. Delores Berry, Elder Larry Rodriguez, Rev. Karen Ziegler and Rev. Elder Jean White.

Congratulations Orlando

On Jan. 21, 1990 Joy MCC, Orlando, FL held the first worship service in their new facility and had 246 people present in a building with a 250 person capacity. One wonders if they will outgrow this facility before they even get comfortable in the new surroundings.

We Need your Help!!

"Laity Sharing " still needs your input to be successful. News and information materials should be directed to Jo Hughes. Workshop and educational materials should be directed to Jonelle Neighbor.

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Published by The Emmaus House of Prayer

The Reverend Joseph W. Houle, Editor

† † †

The Road to Emmaus is a valuable resource for those who wish to balance the busy pace of modern life with moments of recollection and spiritual refreshment. Each meditation is a gentle invitation to become attentive to the presence of the Sacred in the ordinary circumstances of our lives and to open our hearts to the risen Christ in quiet reflection. Special care has been taken to make this devotional inclusive in language, tone, and content. Its underlying message is that the Gospel is good news for *all* people.

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— James B. Nelson, Professor, Christian Ethics, United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities

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When asked what they would tell a gay person seeking to "become" heterosexual, Bussee responded: "I'd ask them to explain to me as best they can why it is that they're wanting to change, to find out what is motivating this unhappiness that they feel," Bussee said. "Is it the feedback that they've gotten from family, from friends, from culture that says they must be sick, or that they must be demon possessed or they must be horrible people if they're attracted to people of their own sex?"

Asked for reactions to "pro-family" traditionalist Rev. Sheldon and his support of "ex-gay" ministries, Bussee responds: "The bottom line is, it doesn't work. We're not talking about changing a behavior. That's what he likes to push; this idea that it's a choice...[But] I believe it's an intrinsic part of who you are. You might be able to suppress the behavior, but you can't change the feelings."

BOOK OF THE DECADE

(Book Review by: Dr. Thomas Hanks)

THE CONSTRUCTION OF HOMOSEXUALITY, by David F. Greenberg (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1988).

Most of us, I suspect, will not agree with Greenburg's basic hypothesis, rejecting "essentialist" interpretations of homosexuality as resulting from biological and/or psychological factors, and arguing for homosexuality as a social construct. The immense value of his work, however lies in his encyclopedic treatment of homosexuality from the perspectives of history, anthropology and sociology.

The concisely written text runs to only 500 pages, but the fantastic 125-page bibliography provides detailed follow-up possibilities on the multitude of subjects treated or touched upon, and even in the area of Biblical studies provides significant leads and insights commonly overlooked in recent specialized studies. I consider the Greenburg's work essential reading for all MCC pastors and other leaders involved in preaching, teaching and the public debate on homosexuality. And if you're going to invest the money and time this work demands, better to do so early in the decade than later - you'll not regret the investment.

For a summary of some of the main areas covered and an initial critique, you may want to consult the extensive review by Don Browning, "Rethinking Homosexuality (Christian Century, Oct. 11, 1989, pp. 911-916). Rather than rehash Browning's well-taken points, I would like to question more sharply Greenburg's basic hypothesis. Certainly his extensive historical and anthropological data pose problems for the "essentialist" views currently dominant (such views are authoritatively documented in the recent PFlag pamphlet "Why Is My Child Gay?," 1988, containing interviews with 11 top scientists, none of whom would support Greenburg's "constructionist" approach).

However, nowhere does Greenburg really present or interact with the kind of detailed scientific information from biology and psychology surveyed in a work like James D. Weinrich, Sexual Landscapes: Why We Are What We Are, Why We Love Whom We Love (New York: Scribners/Macmillan, 1987), although Weinrich and a few similar works are included in the bibliography. Michael Ruse's Homosexuality (Oxford: Blackwell, 1988), with its helpful re-evaluation of the studies of G. Dorner, was published too recently to be included, but also is highly relevant. Neither can we conclude, however, that "essentialist" authorities have accounted satisfactorily for the diversity of historical, anthropological, and sociological data that Greenburg presents. It would appear to be another case of the typical specialization of modern technological society creating communication gaps between disiplines that are difficult to bridge without years of further research and analysis.

My impression, however, is that for constructionists like Greenburg to build a really convincing case, much more evidence would have to be presented on human variants other than homosexuality. Should anthropologists uncover a tribe in New Guinea where everyone is lefthanded or no one is lefthanded, or everyone is ambidexterous, would that really prove that lefthandedness is simply a social construct with no biological determinants? Or would it simply suggest that isolated groups may have nontypical geneological backgrounds? Or if in a certain tribe everyone passes through 10 years using the lefthand before assuming a lifelong use of the righthand, would that prove that no biological factors are involved or simply that a certain tribe might be predominantly ambidexterous? The kind of evidence Greenberg presents undoubtedly poses genuine and fascinating problems for dominant essentialist views of homosexuality. However, that is not to grant that Greenberg's alternative hypothesis is really established, because even greater problems remain for his constructionist hypothesis, and he really does not seriously face them or interact in any detail with the extensive scientific literature supporting essentialist conclusions.

Greenburg's hypothesis per se, however, represents almost a footnote to his encyclopedic historical treatment. And even a total and decisive refutation of his hypothesis would not basically detract from the immense value and significance of the materials presented. Similarly, one might well reject or seriously question Weinberg's specific hypothesis of the evolutionary significance of homosexuality, but that does not detract from the value of his wonderfully readable survey of the areas covered.

(Continued next page)

Book of the Decade (Cont'd)

Undoubtedly many of us will find Greenburg "homophobic" at certain points according to our lights. And you need to be warned that bigots (religious and other kinds) may manage to make effective use of a few points taken out of context in a public debate: if homosexuality is a social construct then conceivably a homosexual public school teacher might seduce a student and socially "construct/recruit" a homosexual out of an innocent heterosexual adolescent. Greenburg's reply ("So what?") may not be all the assurance hysterical homophobic parents need at your next public debate. And the final chapter surveying "Gay Liberation" fails to mention the MCC and related Christian and religious factors, despite previous careful treatment of Israel, New Testament, church history, etc.

The treatment of Biblical texts is defensible exegetically (although personally I would prefer other conclusions, such as those advocated in Wm. Countryman's study). However, Greenberg shows no awareness of the need for hermeneutics and coherent theological method in the use of Scripture in this and other areas - so to that extent it could be very misleading for non-specialists, and again could provide ammunition for MCC critics.

On the whole, however, Greenberg's encyclopedic materials provide vast illumination and much more encouragement than discomfort. My own conclusion that homophobia/heterosexism has caused many more deaths than anti-semitism finds abundant support in historical data gathered from the whole sweep of human history. His treatment and bibliography provide abundant evidence that the truth about homophobia and homosexuality is becoming a common subject of concern and investigation in universities throughout the world. Bigots many complain about mushrooming "Gay propaganda" in the "liberal" media, but they will have to close down our universities if they want to effectively squelch the truth - or require everyone enroll in Falwellian institutions like Liberty College. I doubt that heterosexist ideological tyranny ever will recover from Greenberg's "knockout punch."

REV. BOOTHMAN TAPES AVAILABLE

Faithful Publications announces the release of a four audio tape album featuring the preaching/teaching of the Rev. Dr. Sherre Boothman, Consulting President of Samaritan College in Los Angeles and Senior Pastor of MCC in the Valley, North Hollywood, CA. The ninety minute tapes include five complete sermons and the highlights of a workshop on Roots of Homophobia and Misogyny in Western Christian Tradition. These tapes, the first denomination wide release of Dr. Boothman's preaching, were recorded live in Spiritual Renewal at Reconciliation MCC in Grand Rapids, MI. The four tapes in an attractive vinyl album cover may be purchased for $12.95 plus $3 postage and handling from Faithful Publications, P.O. Box 3701, Grand Rapids, MI 49501. Rev. Boothman has designated his royalties on the album to Samaritan College.

FIELD REP FOR WORLD CHURCH EXTENSION

An immediate opening is available for a full-time position as a Field Representative for WCE. Primary responsibilities include:

- Travel to local churches to present the vision and program of WCE (program materials will be developed by the Board of WCE).
- Coordinate WCE fundraising efforts in local churches and districts.
- Set up and maintain a network with district/local representatives for WCE.
- Work with the UFMCC Administrative Office to follow up on pledges and accounting.

Qualifications desired include:

- Must be an active member of an MCC.
- A person knowledgable and experienced in the ministry and structure of the UFMCC.
- A person with demonstrated public speaking and written communication skills.
- A person with demonstrated sensitivity and aptitude for cross-cultural mission.
- A person with proven interpersonal communication skills.

The salary is negotiable. This staff position will report to the Director of Administration. Please send a resume and three references to: UFMCC Director of Administration 5300 Santa Monica Blvd, Suite 304, Los Angeles, CA 90029. Deadline for applications is May 31, 1990.

FFO ANNUAL MEETING

The Commission on Faith, Fellowship & Order will hold their Annual Meeting on July 12-14, 1990. The location will be at the Radisson Palm Springs Resort and Convention Center, Palm Springs, CA.

Room rates will be $49 single/double and this special price applies three days prior to and three days after the meeting.

Mr. Jim Voltz at Vacation Corporation will handle the air and room reservations. You may contact him toll free at 1-800-966-7174.

Registration forms will be automatically sent to all FFO Commissioners and are also available by writing or calling: Rev. Steven Torrence, Chair FFO, c/o MCC Key West, 1215 Petronia Street, Key West, FL 33040; or call (305) 294-8912. This will be an important re-organizational meeting, so please plan to attend. Registration is $50.00.